

Getting Traction

Start in (P) Travel in (N)

The Christian Culture of Bad Traction



Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Many of us have experienced the conundrums of how to get traction. In fact, not only can traction can become difficult in life but it can also ultimately leave us stranded somewhere. For some... It is getting financial traction, others may experience traction issues in relationship's, marriage, our past, our vocation, business, recreation, life goals, identity, and ministry.

Christianity is not immune from traction issues either. When it comes to church life, we have been inundated with church models that promote consumerism, business, politics, influential personalities, we see churches shifting from one culturally neat mindset to the next while at the same time holding on too tightly to the ways we were raised in our formative years as children or we get stranded in the deception that if I change the narrative of the Gospel to fit my story then I can justify doing life stuck in the middle of nowhere, with out the power I need to get traction.

All of these things have cultivated a culture of Christians who are leaving the church in droves or choosing one where they can get a good motivational sermon or one that they can most identify with. Then bust home to do their personal thing or scheduled recreation. This experience is all too familiar in The Body of Christ today. We see folks who are disoriented in their faith, dissatisfied with the church, longing for something that is authentic and that will satisfy, but never being able to get traction.

I was asked the other day... "What kind of Bike would Jesus ride?" The more I thought about it the more I realize that the motorcycle that most allows me to keep traction like the traction that Jesus had in life is the Honda CRF1100L Africa Twin with ES & DCT! Just so happens I ride one!

What is ES & DCT you ask? The Africa Twin Adventure Sport instantly electronically optimizes the damping force of the suspension wherever you are riding, The IMU and ECU monitors the suspension stroke speed, lean angle, tire rotation, traction, and the vehicle's running condition while riding at a rate of 27,000 times per millisecond. It can be changed with the flick of a switch to suit various riding situations, from everyday riding to tandem touring and off-road. A dual clutch transmission (DCT) controls the motorcycles shifting without having to use an active clutch lever or shifting fork. Every gear and the traction needed is found automatically and can be manually assisted with paddles like in a sports car. But you must totally rely on the motorcycle to keep you in the best traction available. So natural and intuitive the nature of these features that as I move down the highway that... "The bike rides me better than I can ride it!"

This is the very Nature of the relationship Jesus wants to have with us as we walk with Him!

Now... Allow me to Shift gears and share a quick story/poem to illustrate what happens in our story when we don't get traction in life or don't have good connection.

This is a little story about Jake. He was raised in Sunday School so he was a good American Rancher with all the Good American Christian Values!

Jake the Rancher

Jake, the rancher, went one day to fix a distant fence. The wind was cold and gusty and the clouds rolled gray and dense. As he pounded the last staples in and gathered tools to go, The temperature had fallen and the snow began to blow.

When he finally reached his pickup, he felt a heavy heart, from the sound of that ignition, he knew it wouldn't start. So Jake did what most of us do, if we'd have been there! He humbly bowed his balding head and sent aloft a prayer.

As he turned the key for the last time, he knew he'd lost his luck, They found him three days later, frozen stiff in that old truck. Now Jake had been around in life and done his share of roamin' But when he saw Heaven, he was shocked -- it look just like Wyomin'.

Oh, there were some differences of course, but just some minor things, One place had simply disappeared -- the town they called Rock Springs. The BLM had been shut down, and there was no grazin' fees, and the wind in Rawlins and Cheyenne was now a gentle breeze.

The Park and Forest Service folks -- they didn't fare so well, They'd all been sent to fight some fire in a wilderness called Hell. Though Heaven was a real nice place, Jake had a wondering mind, So he saddled up and lit a shuck, not know'n what he'd find.

Then one day up in Cody, on a cold fall afternoon, He saw St. Peter coming, and he knew he'd be there soon. Of all the saints in Heaven, his favorite was St. Peter, Now, this line, it ain't needed - but it helps with rhyme and meter.

So they set and talked a minute or two, or maybe it was three, Nobody was keepin' score -- in Heaven time is free. "I've always heard," Jake said to Pete, "that God will answer prayers, But one time I asked for help, well he just plain wasn't there.

Does God answer prayers of some, and ignores the prayers of others? That don't seem exactly square -- I know all men are brothers. Or does he randomly reply, without good rhyme or reason? Maybe, it's the time of day, the weather or the season.

Now I ain't trying to act smart, it's just the way I feel, And I was wonderin', could you tell me now -- what the heck's the deal? Peter listened very patiently and when Jake was done, There were smiles of recognition, and he said, "So, you're the one!

That day your truck, it wouldn't start, and you sent your prayer a-flying, You gave us all a real bad time, with hundreds of us a trying. A thousand angels rushed to check the status of your file, But you know, Jake, we hadn't heard from you in quite a while

And though all prayers are answered, and God ain't got no quota, He didn't recognize your voice, and started a truck in North Dakota.

Jake was having connection / traction issue's with his Creator!



What I'd like us to ask ourselves today is the question of... Where are you parking? Are you parked in the middle of nowhere fix'n fences or are you parking in the presence of God? It is the only place you'll find traction!

If you are anything like me you'll always park where it is most convenient or where you usually park. There is a direct correlation to this question and how I am doing life on a day by day basis as is the case with the Body of Christ! You see as a man. I too, much like the church... Have tendencies to park in the problem solving space, other times it's the fixing things space. Many times in the day to day grind I hit the ground running with out putting it in park at all! It's like leaving myself in gear with the emergency brake on so it doesn't look like I've been parking for too long. This kind of connection, relationship, and parking in the wrong places will get you asking God things like... "If it's your will Lord for me to have a doughnut this morning let there be a parking spot in front of the doughnut shop. Then when you get there and there's no open spots... You drive around the block 3 times until one opens up!

Here is what I want us to wrap our brain around this morning because it is the key to not only going places in life but keeping the right traction and reaching the right destinations.

You will never get more traction than when you park in the presence of Jesus! In fact... He offers each of us His parking place. Think of it as Ride Share!

Enoch must have found the right place to park because we see that in Genesis 5:24. That not only did he great traction with God He knew where to park!

Scripture tells us that *Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*

What we see in this natural yet supernatural event is the characteristics of an intimate relationship with our Father in Heaven that brings translation, traction and transformation on a supernaturally natural level. Kind of like an Africa Twin!

Now, I want you to just pause to wrap you brain around this one statement! Clear your thoughts and soak this in because I'm going to get a little theological just for a second!

Here is the Statement!

How the story of Enoch in the bible translates in us is unique to the story of every individual Your Story!

Why? Because It individually parks us in a place that puts us in touch with the author and finisher of faith and everything that pertains to life & Godliness as we know it. The principles I am talking about are based on relational theology for you bible buffs and please understand that they are not intended to drive you into spiritual calisthenics rather, they are intended to assist you into the natural flow of what God has provided abundantly towards us. (Free Parking!) It is not intended to provoke a religious position or opinion, or method for the church. Rather, an Experience and Union that will turn into something you have never personally seen in your walk before.

The whole discovery point of this brief passage sets a scriptural precedent in relational theology. Why?

When the Holy Spirit breathed this passage of scripture He was engaging with us and even daring us to embark on an adventure of discovery with the one true God. If you choose to park in His presence and explore these things for yourself I will personally guarantee that it will not only simplify your walk, but provide much needed rest, the renewing of your mind, the refreshing of your soul, and it will even change the way you look at life as you see things through the lens of Jesus. I only need to park in the presence of the Holy Spirit to be comforted and encouraged in this kind of union with God. Jesus then becomes the natural driving force and traction for our movements in life. Make Sense?

Now here is a thought!

Once I devote myself to the practice of parking in the right place then I get to the experience the full on power of neutral. The great thing about "neutral" is that it can be defined simplistically in this way; No matter how hard you try to drive something that is in neutral and no matter how hard you try to gain momentum there will never be movement unless some other power source is motivating it.

You can run a whole race in neutral!

Sometimes during the events that I run with my business / I Ride Rogue LLC... We will have Drag Races. Usually someone shows up on a sport-bike and spends there day blowing everyone else away! Yep! They're fast,

shiny, loud, revved up - everyone wants to look at them, and be like them. They like to win races by their exhibition of sheer unlimited power and prowess.

I made a discovery one day on the backside of the Dooley Mountain Hwy on the way to a Hells Canyon Rally in Baker City, Oregon one day. The back side of this mountain descends from the summit for 7.5 miles, the Hwy is noted for being curvy and steep, In fact, in it is noted in Oregon as having the most curves throughout it's 14 mile totallity.

From the summit 10 of us lined up in the Hwy, bikes turned off, and in Neutral. I yelled go and everyone began to coast off the line. The lighter bikes took off really quick and there I was... All by myself! Thinking... I'm all alone, I don't have a chance, I will never catch up! This is when I discovered the more supernatural side of running under the influence of another force! That force is what is best described as momentum. My Goldwing weighed over 900lbs before gas, gear, and guts, which adds another 400lbs. After the 1st mile the momentum of the 1300lb behemoth took off and I began to pass one by one, everyone around me, ultimately winning the race... in Neutral! Here is the point! The Race was one under the power and influence of something other than my own power.

This illustrates the importance of connecting in the right spot with the right One and then living under the power and momentum of His Spirit.

Want traction? Park yourself with Him. Want supernatural power? Rest in His Strength & Momentum. Want to start wining races? Devote yourself to the One who won it all for you!

Too often, our mindset on moving forward in life is... If we do our part then God will do His part. This is not in keeping with the New Covenant of Christ that has been provided for us. Why? Because the work is already done and the race is won!

Remember when your daddy used to tell you to stand still? How much you hated that neutral / parked stance because nothing seemingly was happening. Sometimes that posture facilitated the difference between a good and a bad haircut. Some of you still haven't leared to stand sill! How funny might we look in Christianity if we don't learn to stand still?

So wonderful is the counsel that I receive when I Park with God and Put it in Neutral!

1 Samuel 12:16 Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do before your eyes!

Paraphrased: Park and experience my momentum!

Challenge:



You can't experience what He is doing if you are doing your own thing. You will miss out on the great things the Lord is doing every time. Today it is up to you to discover and practice **Park** (Ultimate Traction) and **Neutral** (Supernatural Momentum). After all, you may be here because you have been stuck in some other gear!

Park in His presence and get moving under His influence everyday before you do anything else! Many don't think in these terms (going back to relational theology). But know this! Jesus... In the same way God brought Enoch into His presence... Through the provision of Jesus and by sending His Holy Spirit, He now extends the invitation to each of us and He says... "Come with me John." Let's just hang out and go places together!" "Park with me in my parking place and I'll get us there!"

If we can get a group of Men Practicing this kind of traction with Jesus.... There is no limit to what He will do in His Church!